

WINGSPREAD

Randolph Air Force Base ♦ Texas

61st Year ♦ No. 27 ♦ July 20, 2007

San Antonio to host AETC Symposium

By Tech. Sgt. Mike Hammond
Air Education and Training Command
Public Affairs

Airmen throughout the Air Force will have the opportunity to hear some of the service's top speakers and professors deliver the best speeches and briefings on current and future operations as well as see some of the newest initiatives in weapons systems and future equipment, while meeting the people who make them, during the 2007 Air Education and Training Command Symposium Sept. 5-7 at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center in San Antonio.

This year's symposium runs in conjunction with the Air Force's 60th Anniversary and concludes with an anniversary ball celebrating 60 years as the mightiest air and space force in the world, said event officials.

As the "first command," AETC plays both an initial and recurring role in the careers of all Airmen – from introductory and technical training to professional military education. A particular focus of command leadership has been adapting training programs to better prepare Airmen to operate in a wartime environment.

The Symposium will feature four tracks of instruction: Expeditionary Warfighter, Deciphering Culture, The Long War, and Accelerating Change.

"Each track will have many courses available to those attending," said Col. David Clark, Individual Mobilization Augmentee to the AETC vice commander. "Participants can choose lectures from any track, essentially

See **Symposium** on page 5



6 Giddyup! Horse camp offered in August.



9 Sew fine. Survival equipment shop keeps them in stitches.



10 Softball season soars.

CHANGES AHEAD

Base experts explain new OPR, EPR process

By Staff Sgt. Lindsey Maurice
12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Personnel experts from the 12th Mission Support Squadron will host a special base wide briefing Tuesday at 8 a.m. in the base theater to better acquaint Randolph Airmen and civilians with the recent changes to the Air Force officer and enlisted evaluation processes.

The changes, which include new streamlined officer and enlisted performance reports, feedback worksheets and an all-electronic routing process that removes the military personnel flight completely, will be implemented in stages between now and Jan. 1, 2008.

"The goal of this change is to improve performance documentation by pulling out the unnecessary fluff and getting to the meat of what's important in our Airmen as well as reducing the administrative workload that comes with the current process," said Chief Master Sgt. Bobbie Heyward, military personnel flight superintendent. "Like all changes, it's going to take time for everyone to get used to the new system, but I think most people will find these changes for the better."

One of the biggest differences Airmen will find in the new system, is the addition of their physical fitness test results included on their EPRs and OPRs, said Chief Heyward. In the new form, Airmen will either be marked as meeting the standard (with a score of 75 or above), not meeting the standard (with a score of 74.99 or less) and exempt (if they are on a waiver from all four aspects of the test). Those Airmen marked as "does not meet" in this category will face a referral EPR or OPR.

"This is going to play a major role in the new evaluation system," Chief



Heyward said. "A referral EPR could affect an individual's chances for promotion, a special duty assignment and other aspects of their career. That's why it is so important for Airmen to remain fit throughout the year and make sure they pass their annual test. Air Force leaders feel the PT program has been in place for three years now, which is long enough for everyone to be prepared and pass."

Another big change Chief Heyward noted is the addition of ratee acknowledgement before an EPR or OPR can be processed.

Through the new process, raters will be required to conduct face-to-face feedback with ratees and give them at least three days to review their performance evaluation form and sign it.

"This is such an important breakthrough for the EPR/OPR system," said Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Page, 12th Flying Training Wing command chief. "How many times have we heard the horror stories of our Airmen going to the MPF to look at their records only to be surprised by a rating that is much

Implementation timeline for new enlisted and officer performance reports:

Officers: Aug. 15
Chief master sergeant: Aug. 15
Senior master sergeant: Aug. 1
Master sergeant: Oct. 1
Technical sergeant: Jan. 1, 2008
Staff sergeant: Jan. 1, 2008
Airman basic to senior airman: Aug. 15
Air Force Reserve and National Guard enlisted: Aug. 15

lower than what was expected. Ratees can now address significant discrepancies before their EPR processes through the system."

The addition of the ratee review is primarily a way to keep open communication between the rater and ratee, as well as a way to reduce the amount of administrative errors made in the current process, said Chief Heyward.

"It's a good way for Airmen to note

See **Change** on page 8

Aviation camp learns AF way of life

By Senior Airman Tim Bazar
12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Future aviators attending the San Antonio Aviation Career Education Summer Camp spent the day Tuesday learning about aviation careers in the U.S. Air Force.

Twenty-two campers took advantage of the experience to learn about what it's like being an Air Force pilot, but also learned about other aviation careers like combat systems officers, electronic warfare officers and maintenance crews.

The summer camp, hosted by the Organization of Black Airline Pilots, Inc. and the Federal Aviation Administration, is free to children in local high schools who are accepted to the program.

"We try to get a cross-section of children from around the city who are strong in math or science to learn about aviation during the camp," said retired Lt. Col. Calvin Allen, now a captain with Delta Airlines. "The applications we receive are evaluated based on the 'whole-person concept,' to include their grades, volunteer experience and other factors that are important in being a well-rounded person."



Joseph Garlitz, a participant in the San Antonio Aviation Career Education Summer Camp, looks in the cockpit of a T-38 used to teach introduction to fighter fundamentals at Randolph. (Photo by Rich McFadden)

During the tour, campers spoke with Brig. Gen. Suzanne Vautrinot, Air Force Recruiting Service commander, about career opportunities in the Air Force,

See **Camp** on page 5

Commander's Action Line Call 652-5149 or e-mail randolph.actionline@randolph.af.mil

While our goal is to provide the best programs, products and services to our customers, there will be instances when people believe we could have served them better.

In those cases, I ask the individual to first contact the responsible organization to allow the unit commander or manager an opportunity to ensure professional and impartial treatment.

When those officials are unable to provide satisfaction, the individual may contact me through the Action Line. I will ensure each Action Line call is looked into and a reply is given by telephone or in writing. I ask callers to include their name and telephone number so we may send a personal response.

Col. Richard Clark
12th Flying Training Wing commander



AFSO 21, other programs improve AF

By Col. Warren Berry
78th Air Base Wing vice commander

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. (AFPN) – Some would argue that Washington, D.C., is the seat of power for the entire free world.

When I walked the city's streets in July while attending a course at George Washington University, I strolled past the World Bank and the halls of Congress. Coupled with gazing at the Washington Monument from my hotel room every night, I couldn't help but think of Lean, which the Air Force now calls Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st century, or AFSO 21.

Let me explain.
The first day I got here, classmates and I were armed only with a map and a metro card to get to class. Off we trudged, simply trying to find our way. At lunch, we repeated the exercise, simply finding a suitable place to eat and then finding our way back to class. In the beginning, it was all about the basic mission – get to class, go eat, get back, and of course, find the library.

As the days progressed, all 48 students began finding a more expedient path to and from class. It became less an issue of getting there and more an issue of doing so more efficiently. Over the next few days, we all found "new and improved" ways of Leaning this commuting process (but still passing a Starbucks along the way).

And that, really, is the point. No, not the Starbucks, but the basic human nature of wanting to keep making things better.

Don't believe me? Go visit a supermarket. You can't get three feet down any aisle before you see a product that is "new and improved." And we buy it even though we think the "old and unimproved" product was

pretty darn good.
So what have you done to make your work center "new and improved"? Every one of us can find a more expedient path, a more efficient process and a new and improved product. It's in our nature to do so, and it just becomes a matter of uncovering the right tools to help you work through what you already know needs to get done.

One of the most straightforward tools is known as "6S," which stands for sort, straighten, scrub, standardize, sustain and safety. In my previous job in Germany, we used this tool with

"Every one of us can find a more expedient path, a more efficient process, and a new and improved product. It's in our nature to do so, and it just becomes a matter of uncovering the right tools to help you work through what you already know needs to get done."

great effect. Much to the initial dismay of my group, we embarked on a Lean/6S journey. We chose three candidates to serve as our test benches. To be honest, each was in desperate need of just some good old-fashioned cleaning. Yet here was a chance not to simply throw a GI party at the problem, but to offer a systematic approach to streamlining their processes and making them more efficient and effective in their daily jobs – making them "new and improved."

The results were more dramatic than I could have imagined. The in-flight kitchen completely redesigned its production flow, eliminating unnecessary steps and waste. As a result, they reduced order fill times by

60 percent, reduced prestaged meals by 75 percent – think of inventory savings – and now spend 220 less man-hours a year completing inventories. When you consider this facility builds 210,000 meals a year, you begin to see real savings.

Similarly, the security forces armory had poorly positioned weapons racks and unmanageable ammunition stocks, cluttered by excess equipment and weapons from a mission long gone. Following 6S, the "new" armory eliminated four steps during weapons turn-in and issue and reduced the time to arm and equip a security forces flight by 56 minutes per day. Given the size of the squadron, that's saving 70 man-hours per day.

Finally, the air traffic control maintenance back shop was a work center in disarray – cluttered would be an understatement. The team moved tools to the work site where they were most needed, allowing easy access and fewer return trips to the back shop. They ruthlessly pared and then organized their inventory, increasing storage capacity by 35 percent and saving 500 man-hours annually for tool and equipment issue. The biggest benefit, however, was a bit more intangible – the Air Force got a higher-quality maintenance product out of those Airmen. Our in-commission rates for the air traffic control and landing systems were the highest ever.

That same model process/model cell approach to 6S is in use here and throughout the Air Force. I won't be surprised by the results, because I've seen firsthand how 6S can deliver.

So can you, as you try to brand your work center "new and improved." Perhaps the best news is you don't have to walk the streets of Washington, D.C., to think Lean. All you have to do is walk through your office.

Commander shares 'adapt or die' philosophy

By Lt. Col. Patrick Reese
354th Medical Support Squadron commander

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska (AFPN) – Three words stood emblazoned on a small plaque in the colonel's office: Adapt or die.

In the colonel's typical freight-train style, he explained his philosophy to me – the new lieutenant. We have those moments early in our careers when we hear something from a senior leader that sticks with us. I was having my moment.

Heard well before the flat world described by Thomas Friedman or Spencer Johnson's movement of cheese, the adapt or die philosophy has been an invaluable guideline for me since that first assignment.

Adapt or die is simple. Every new leader we encounter has a unique style, interlaced with likes, dislikes, pet peeves and idiosyncrasies. Your job is to figure those out and chart a course through them to success. Don't expect the leader to change their style to accommodate you.

Work hard to make your end product suit your leader. That is when smiles begin, and once you get the boss smiling, that is a good day.

Adaptation is also important in dealing with colleagues. Knowing the environment you're entering before wading in with a request can mean the difference between hitting brick walls and hurdling them in stride. See the issue from both sides, orient yourself to the different points of view involved, and then adapt your attack to achieve your ultimate goal. Smashing through a door with a big hammer will get you through the door once, but figuring out how to turn the handle and open the door will allow you to use it many times.

I once asked the colonel if he had ever said to anyone, "You're not adapting!" He said he had used that phrase with two officers in his career and neither of them stayed in the Air Force for very long. He went on to note that he hadn't processed them out of the Air Force. Neither officer was able to adapt to their next leader, at which juncture they were encouraged to seek their fortunes in venues outside of the Air Force.

A corollary to the adapt or die principle became evident when the colonel organized staff work. He would calmly announce to all of us young officers, "I'm not writing the response. That's what captains and lieutenants are for."

At first, this caused a lot of choice words uttered under our breath, but I began to realize the power the colonel was placing in our hands. A well-prepared memo was often signed quickly. A well-thought plan received his enthusiastic backing. In short, he gave us the power to shape policy and make things happen in his name. What once sounded like a flippant remark turned into how I decided what the response would say: I wrote the memo, and the colonel signed it. I helped shape policy.

Too often we are more than willing to abdicate our responsibility to be an active voice for our leaders. The attitude of "send it through and the boss will bleed all over it, then we'll write it the way they want" can bring organizations to a screeching halt. Soon, the entire unit adopts a passive posture, waiting for the leader to give direction before doing anything.

Don't fall into this trap! Adapt to the leader's style and forge ahead. In many units, there is the Airman, NCO or company grade officer who always seems to know what's going on. He is the person to whom everyone else is willing to listen and value his judgment. The challenge is to be that person – the one who makes things happen.

Adapt or die. Do one or the other.

WINGSPREAD

12th Flying Training Wing
Editorial Staff

Col. Richard Clark
Commander

Capt. Sharon Branick
Chief of Public Affairs

Gabe Myers
Chief of News and Information

Staff Sgt. Lindsey Maurice
Editor

David DeKunder
Robert Goetz

Airman 1st Class Katie Hickerson
Megan Orton

Staff writers

Wingspread office:

1 Washington Circle, Suite 4
Randolph AFB, Texas 78150
Phone: (210) 652-5760
Fax: (210) 652-5412

Wingspread Advertisements:

Prime Time Military Newspapers
7137 Military Drive West
San Antonio, Texas 78227
Phone: (210) 675-4500
Fax: (210) 675-4577

Wingspread e-mail:

randolph.wingspread@randolph.af.mil

Wingspread online:

www.randolph.af.mil (click on the Wingspread icon)

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Articles may also be sent by e-mail to randolph.wingspread@randolph.af.mil or by fax at 652-5412. For more information about submissions, call 652-5760.

Randolph Inn employee retires after 37-year lodging career

By David DeKunder
Wingspread staff writer

What started as a way to help her mother led to a long career for one Randolph Inn employee, who retired after 37 years of service last week.

Katie Hubbard, former Randolph Inn supply purchasing supervisor, celebrated her retirement with family and friends during a special ceremony July 13 at the enlisted club.

The 65-year-old Ms. Hubbard's career at the inn began with a stroke of luck, she said. She and her husband, Robert, who was stationed at Randolph at the time, lived on base when her mother, Evelyn Davis, began working as a housekeeper at the inn.

After dropping off her children at Randolph Elementary School, Ms. Hubbard would go to the inn to help her mother.

"Since I was there every day, the supervisor asked me if I would like to work," she said.

After convincing her husband it would be good for her to have a full-time job, Ms. Hubbard started out as a housekeeper at \$1.20 an hour in October 1970. She then worked as a room inspector and supply clerk before being promoted to supply purchasing supervisor.

Working at the inn for 37 years turned out to be a rewarding experience, not only professionally but personally, Ms. Hubbard said.

"I made many friends here," she said. "That is the best part about lodging. I have been able to meet so many people. I'm going to miss my co-workers, some of whom started out with me. I am close to them."

Ms. Hubbard said her work always came first and that meant making sure she gave a hand to her colleagues when they needed it.

"I like my job," she said. "I like helping people out so they can get the job done. We are one big family."

As purchasing supervisor, Ms. Hubbard was in charge of ordering cleaning supplies, linens, front desk items, uniforms and inventory for the inn's Hitching Post and helped coordinate the placement of bulk storage.

Mike Porter, Randolph Inn assistant manager, said Ms. Hubbard played an important behind-the-scenes role in the inn's operation.

"She was the heart and soul of the inn," Mr. Porter said. "Rarely did we do anything without running it through Katie so we could get her feel on something. You could always come to her with a question and she was willing to help and provide guidance."

Besides being a hard-working and consummate professional, Mr. Porter said Ms. Hubbard is a person he can talk to on a more personal level.

"We are going to miss her wisdom, knowledge and humility," he said. "I feel like I have known Katie all of my life. She is a good-hearted person who has a genuine concern for everybody."

Bob Bath, a former assistant inn manager who worked with Ms. Hubbard for 10 years, said he could not have done his job without her assistance.

"She was the backbone of the organization," he said. "She kept it operating on a day-to-day basis, yet she always found the time to help her co-workers."

Ms. Hubbard not only looked out for the best interests of her colleagues, but of the people who paid the bills as well, Mr. Bath said.

"She really watched how she spent the taxpayers' dollars," he said. "Anything she purchased for the organization, she managed to get a better price for."

Throughout the years, the Randolph community recognized Ms. Hubbard with various awards. She was named one of Randolph's Most Outstanding Women in 1991, Civilian of the Year in 1985 and 1991 and Civilian of the Quarter five times.

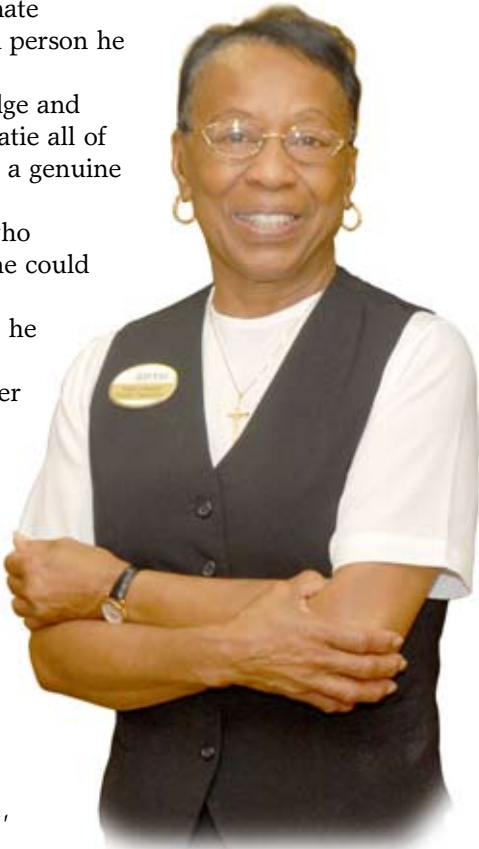
Ms. Hubbard said she is retiring because she wants to spend more time with her husband, two sons and grandchild.

Even in retirement Ms. Hubbard plans to stay busy.

"I will do some voluntary work and a couple of hobbies such as reading and crocheting as well as some traveling," she said.

Whoever replaces Ms. Hubbard will have big shoes to fill, Mr. Bath said.

"She is a super, remarkable person," he said. "Her loss is going to be extremely felt at Randolph."



Katie Hubbard, former Randolph Inn supply purchasing supervisor, retired July 13 after a 37-year career at the inn. (Photo by Rich McFadden)

CAREGIVERS IN ACTION

Family Liaison Officers take families under their wings

By Robert Goetz
Wingspread staff writer

Staff Sgt. Thomas Knudsen was driving the lead vehicle in a convoy outside Balad Air Base, Iraq, on June 6 when an improvised explosive device detonated, leaving him with a broken right leg, fracture to his left heel, head injury and shrapnel above his left eye.

In the aftermath of his horrific experience, his recuperative odyssey took him from Balad to Landstuhl Air Base, Germany; Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C.; Brooke Army Medical Center here in San Antonio and, finally, to his home at Barksdale Air Force Base, La. Trained personnel attended to the needs of him and his family every mile of the way, creating a caregivers' network that stretched from the Middle East to the southeastern United States.

Master Sgt. Donna Davis, of the Air Education and Training Command, provided one of the links in that transatlantic chain, serving as Sergeant Knudsen's Family Liaison Officer when he was treated at BAMC.

The Family Liaison Officer, or FLO, is the main cog in the Air Force Survivor Assistance Program, which, according to its own definition, "is designed to marshal all available resources in support of family needs following unexpected loss of life."

Since its inception in 2001, the program has been extended to families of prisoners of war and those missing or wounded in action.

The wheels of the program turn quickly, so swiftly that Sergeant Davis

"It's a set of ears on the scene talking to the family, seeing what their needs are and getting the experts to directly answer all their questions."

Bob Bertels

Air Force Survivor Assistance Program representative

was informed early on that San Antonio would be one of Sergeant Knudsen's destinations on his road to recovery.

"We knew shortly after he was hurt that he would eventually come through here," she said.

Sergeant Davis' training and experience assisting five wounded Airmen enabled her to perform her role with efficiency and sensitivity. Among her duties were to maintain communication with a case manager at BAMC who keeps a detailed file on each wounded servicemember and to keep Sergeant Knudsen's family apprised of his condition and what Air Force services were available to them. She also chauffeured family members to BAMC to visit him and checked them into the Fisher House at Fort Sam Houston.

Bob Bertels, 12th Services Division mortuary affairs officer, said the AFSAP was established to assist survivors of aviation mishaps; however it was quickly expanded and is ever-changing.

"There was a need for someone to spend time with the families of those servicemembers who were killed or injured," he said.

The FLO is the heart of the Air Force Survivor Assistance Program – a point of contact for family members of mishaps, and later for the families of

wounded personnel.

"It's a set of ears on the scene talking to the family, seeing what their needs are and getting the experts to directly answer all their questions," he said.

Mr. Bertels said it's "paramount" that a FLO "listen and understand what someone is asking and to be sensitive to their needs.

He said a FLO at Randolph "kicks into gear" when a wounded Airman arrives in San Antonio for further treatment and recovery at BAMC or Wilford Hall Medical Center.

"The FLO meets them at the airport and follows them all the way through," he said.

The FLO helps the Airman's family in a number of ways, but does not serve as a specialist or counselor. That assistance comes from an expert or trained professional in the Air Force's network of services.

Mr. Bertels said the Air Force matches enlisted members together and officers together within the FLO program.

"We also try to match Airmen in the same career field," he said.

According to AFSAP regulations, each unit must provide AFSAP awareness training to unit members who fit the criteria and who are interested in becoming a FLO.

Currently there are more than 180 Airmen and civilians who have attended AFSAP awareness training at Randolph.

"You really feel like you're helping someone," Sergeant Davis said of her role as a FLO. "It's comforting to try to help them out."

Unit commanders are another part of the AFSAP network, ensuring that their units have a SAP awareness trained person at all times, recommending FLOs, arranging with Services to provide training for FLOs and handling other duties, he said.

Mr. Bertels added that the extent of support provided by FLOs depends on the situation.

"Some families already have their own support system, while others count on the military as their support system," he said. "Given the guidelines, every case is different. It's a needs-driven program."

Chief Master Sgt. Debra Spiece, Sergeant Davis's supervisor, said a FLO adopts the family of a wounded Airman "for a short period of time."

"The family doesn't know how the system works," she said. "You take them under your wing."

For a FLO, Sergeant Spiece said, "It's the little things that matter."

"Taking care of folks – that's what it's all about," she said. "We all step up to the plate when it's our turn."

Mr. Bartels called FLOs and others in the AFSAP network "a wealth of folks who want to help out."

"It's all about good, solid training and teamwork," he said.

Sergeant Spiece echoed his words.

"These people truly place service before self," she said.

COMMANDER CONNECTION

This column is intended to unofficially introduce new unit commanders to the base community.

Lt. Col. Brent King 12th Operations Support Squadron

Date of command: July 10
Hometown: Radcliffe, Ky.
Unit mission: To provide operations support for the 12th Flying Training Wing pilot instructor training and combat systems officer missions, including airfield and air traffic control, weather, simulator and academic training, flight records and intelligence.
Key to success in the Air Force: "Attitude is everything! Having a positive attitude and being prepared for upcoming events so the unit can plan instead of react to situations."
Previous assignments: Columbus AFB, Miss.; Holloman AFB, N.M.; Luke AFB Ariz.; Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; Tyndall AFB, Fla.;



Khamis Mushayt, Saudi Arabia; Langley AFB, Va., and Randolph AFB, Texas
Vision for the unit: "To continue to provide world-class support to the 12th FTW mission."
Memorable Air Force experience: "My wife and I married just before leaving on a one-year remote to Saudi Arabia. We spent two months working her country clearance and visa to join me, non-command sponsored. Finally, she received clearance to join me and we spent our free time during the remainder of the year touring the country, scuba diving in the Red Sea and traveling to different sites. It was a very enjoyable tour because of the time we got to spend together."

Base team gears up for 2007 AMC Rodeo

By Megan Orton
12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Esprit de corps, professionalism, capability, communication and improvement are ideas highlighted in the Air Mobility Command's biannual Rodeo competition. But perhaps the true driving force of the 55 teams to compete for a spot on the Rodeo roster is the chance for a good, old-fashioned competition. This year, Randolph is sending its first four-man team from the 99th Flying Training Squadron to compete in the T-1 Jayhawk competition at AMC's Rodeo Sunday through July 28 at McChord Air Force Base, Wash. "We're excited to be taking Randolph's first-ever team to the AMC Rodeo," said Lt. Col. John Papachriston, 99th FTS director of operations and the team's commander. "None of us have competed before and we're all looking forward to the experience." The 99th FTS team is made up of Colonel Papachriston; Maj. Kris Epps, the team's pilot from the 99th FTS; Maj. JR Boddy, an attached flyer from 19th Air Force and the team copilot; and Maj. Lee Morris from the 100th FTS, who will serve as the team's "umpire." Rodeo 2007 consists of eight aircrew events, three maintenance events, six aerial port events, three aeromedical evacuation events, three security forces events and three fit to fight events in a period of seven days. The 99th FTS team will compete in simulated airdrop and simulated air refueling competitions in the T-1, as well as the physical fitness events. The team's main competitors will be teams from the other three T-1 undergraduate pilot training bases: the 71st Flying Training Wing at Vance AFB, Okla., 48th FTS from Columbus AFB, Mo., and 86th FTS from Laughlin AFB, Texas. Colonel Papachriston said the best part of the Rodeo is comparing notes with other crews, as team members can learn a lot from one another. "Although Randolph trains all T-1 instructors throughout the Air Force, those instructors can go on to develop



Majs. JR Boddy and Kris Epps, members of the 99th Flying Training Squadron Rodeo team, return from a practice flight in the T-1A Jayhawk in preparation for next week's Air Mobility Command Rodeo competition. (Photo by Rich McFadden)

techniques we can use to help improve our training product here," Colonel Papachriston said. "Those instructors in turn train all of the mobility pilots in the Air Force, who play a pretty big role when the nation is at war." The colonel noted that the Randolph team has been practicing flying routes they've never flown before in preparation for the competition. "The judging is pretty intense, and in some cases for every tenth of a mile you are off-course, you lose points," Colonel Papachriston said. "We train to be over an exact point at an exact time, which is important because most of the areas where AMC flies contain significant threats." AMC's Rodeo planted its roots in the airdrop competitions of the early 1960s, when President John F. Kennedy sought airlift potential to prevent the threat of limited, guerilla wars throughout the world, according to the Rodeo Web site. Computed Air Release Point aerial delivery operations called for aircrews to fill out flight plans that included the exact time the aircraft would be over an aerial drop zone. With aerial delivery operations in the forefront of America's plan for air combat, CARP Rodeos became a way to maintain

proficiency in CARP procedures, which allowed aerial drops to be accurately completed without ever having to view the target. Each year, the simulations at the competitions have become more realistic and diverse, and today, the competition attracts up to 2,500 participants and 80 aircraft, according to the Rodeo Web site. The 55 teams signed up to participate in the 2007 Rodeo include three U.S. Marine Corps teams, one U.S. Coast Guard team and several teams from across the globe. Rodeo was expanded to include international mobility teams in 1979. This year, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Egypt, Germany, Netherlands, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates are all sending participant teams, while 19 other countries are sending observer teams. U.S. Air Force aircraft expected to take part include the T-1, C-17 Globemaster, C-5 Galaxy, C-130 Hercules, KC-10 Extender and the KC-135 Stratotanker. "We are excited for the opportunity to compete in such a prestigious competition with such a rich history," Major Epps said. "We just hope our hard work and effort to prepare pays off with a win."

News BRIEFS

Retirees
Congratulations to Col. Joseph F. Barron of the Air Education and Training Command and Maj. Pete Klavik of the 99th Flying Training Squadron on their retirement.

AETC art exhibit
In honor of the Air Force's 60th Anniversary, the Air Education and Training Command hosts the "Heritage to Horizons: U.S. Air Force History Through Art" exhibit now through Aug. 12 at the University of Texas at San Antonio's Institute of Texan Cultures. The collection features paintings depicting aviation history. The hours for the exhibit are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m.

SNCO Induction Ceremony
The Randolph Air Force Base Top 3 organizations host the Team Randolph Senior NCO Induction Ceremony Aug. 2 at 6 p.m. at the enlisted club. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Estella Harris at 652-2781.

School and sports physicals
The Randolph Medical Clinic is offering annual physicals for youth ages 7 to 18 Aug. 1 and 15. To schedule an appointment, call the appointment line at 916-9900.

Deployed Spouse and Family Dinner
Families of deployed base military members are invited to a free dinner Aug. 16 from 4:45-6 p.m. at the Rendezvous Dining Facility, located off First Street West. Those interested must sign up through their spouse's first sergeant or the Airman and Family Readiness Flight by Aug. 14. For more information, call 652-5321.

Airmen's Bash
The Air Force Sergeants Association hosts its third annual Airmen's Bash Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. on the Fort Sam Houston side of Canyon Lake. The luau-themed event includes food, drinks, music, games, fishing and volleyball. For more information, call Staff Sgt. De'Ann Montelongo at 665-2362 or e-mail deann.montelongo@randolph.af.mil.

MOAA
The Military Officers Association of America Alamo Chapter hosts its monthly luncheon Thursday at 11:45 a.m. at the Randolph Officers' Club. The event is \$15 per person. Reservations must be made by Monday. To reserve a seat, call 228-9955.

FamilyStrong Family Fun Day
FamilyStrong hosts its Family Fun Day for military families with special needs children July 28 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the McGimsey Scout Park, located off NW Military Highway. The free event includes games, pony rides, face painting, moon bouncers, lunch and prizes. For free tickets, call Denisse Cardona at 299-8139, ext. 247.

For retirement announcements in the *Wingspread*, e-mail randolph.wingspread@randolph.af.mil.
For marquee announcements, e-mail randolph.marquee@randolph.af.mil.



Training the world’s finest Airmen for tomorrow... Deploying combat-ready warriors today.

12th Flying Training Wing Mission Statement



Randolph Air Force Base houses more than 30 mission partners, including Air Education and Training Command, Air Force Personnel Center, Air Force Recruiting Service and 19th Air Force to name a few. Each organization conducts a unique operation, essential to the Air Force mission. These units, along with the 12th Flying Training Wing, are what make Randolph Air Force Base the “Showplace of the Air Force.” This column focuses on one of these very special mission partners.

Local OSI unit protects base from potential threats

By Airman 1st Class Katie Hickerson
Wingspread staff writer

They report each day to work in regular, business-casual attire. Though they once wore their rank on their collar or stripes on their sleeves, you would never know that these incognito officers, enlisted Airmen and civilians are out in force protecting our way of life.

Here at Randolph, the 4th Field Investigations Region, Detachment 409 Operating Location A is just one of many Air Force Office of Special Investigations teams providing professional investigative services to Air Force leaders. Det. 409, like all AFOSI units, is tasked with conducting criminal investigations and counterintelligence services by providing independent, unbiased and centrally-directed investigations of criminal activity within the Air Force, said Special Agent Nick Ratermann, of the detachment.

“We are here to protect the Air Force, its personnel and assets from several potential threats,” he said. “Crime and fraud investigation is a large part of what we do, but we also serve to clear Air Force personnel when they have been unjustly accused of a crime.”

OSI recently underwent an area of responsibility restructure, which enabled the detachment to work specifically in support of the 12th Flying Training Wing and its mission, and Air Education and Training Command is supported by the region as a whole, Special Agent Ratermann said.

“We now handle issues directly tied to Randolph, but our job can take us as far north as Dallas, east to

Houston, out to west Texas and south to the border.”

Randolph currently has five full-time special agents assigned to the detachment. Their typical workloads include managing threat detection and counter-intelligence measures (both home and abroad), conducting felony-level criminal and economic crime investigations, and conducting information operations and technology protection against defense cyber crime.

“Our world today is a high-speed, technology-driven one,” said Special Agent Ratermann. “Our entire lives – work files, personal information, history and sensitive official information are all electronic.”

“By catching those who purposely wish to jeopardize the electronic and information integrity of the Air Force, the Department of Defense and the United States, we save the government millions in fraud cases every year,” he said.

According to the official OSI public Web site, the Air Force selects more than 230 people each year to become new special agents. Today, OSI consists of more than 2,900 federal agents and support personnel.

“Any officer, enlisted Airman or civilian interested in becoming an OSI agent can apply,” Special Agent Ratermann said.



OSI agents attend the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, and train alongside candidates from other Federal Law Enforcement agencies.

While there, Special Agent Ratermann said, candidates go through a rigorous 11-week Criminal Investigator Training Program, followed by an eight-week follow-on AFOSI specific course that teaches the candidates about the Uniform Code of Military Justice and other advanced counter-intelligence training.

Once an agent’s training is complete, that agent is assigned to one of the 160 detachments spread throughout the world for one year to complete on-the-job-training, said Special Agent Ratermann. Specialized training in forensic science, polygraphist skills, technical services and surveillance is also available to agents once their on-the-job-training is successfully completed.

In a deployed environment, OSI agents often work with host nation officials and U.S. Army Special Forces to help track down terrorist cell leaders, said Special Agent Ratermann.

“We deploy for six-month cycles and always have at least one agent from our detachment deployed at any given time,” Special Agent Ratermann said. “OSI plays a valuable role in the war on terrorism.”

For more information on the OSI career field, visit <http://www.osi.andrews.af.mil>, or call 652-1852.

Symposium

Continued from Page 1

tailoring their experience at the symposium to their own professional needs and interests.”

The symposium kicks off Sept. 5 with a luncheon and golf tournament at Pecan Valley Golf Club. In addition to the

tracks of instruction, a luncheon will be held Sept. 6 and 7, with Gen. John D. W. Corley and Lt. Gen. Gary L. North, respectively, scheduled as keynote speakers. General Corley is Vice Chief of Staff for the U.S. Air Force, and General North is the 9th Air Force and U.S. Central Command Air Forces commander.

The AETC, Air University, 2nd Air Force, 19th Air Force and Air Force

Recruiting Service commanders will field questions from the audience during a general officer panel. Finally, the symposium concludes with the Air Force 60th Anniversary Ball on Sept. 7. The Honorable Michael W. Wynne, Secretary of the Air Force, is scheduled as the keynote speaker.

“For 60 years, the United States Air Force has provided top cover for our great nation,” said Gen. William R.

Looney III, AETC commander. “As we celebrate our proud heritage and boundless horizons, I hope you’ll join me for this fantastic event. Together we’ll honor the magnificent accomplishments of Airmen past, as we renew our commitment to develop America’s Airmen today ... for tomorrow.”

Those interested in attending may register and get more information at <https://www.2007aetcsymposium.com>.

Camp

Continued from Page 1

received a wing mission briefing to acclimate them with Randolph AFB, met with pilots in the 435th Fighter Training Squadron, learned about desegregation on the 99th Flying

Training Squadron’s Tuskegee Airmen heritage tour, dined with Airmen, saw maintainers turn wrenches on T-38s and T-1s, and learned about navigation at the combat systems officer training school.

“The camp gives you a great idea about aviation,” said Ari Richtberg, a 15-year-old in his second year with the camp, “but it gives you a lot more than that. You can gain knowledge of

several different areas involved with aviation, make connections within the field and position yourself for a good future.”

Campers spend a week learning about the aviation industry from classroom instruction, tours of major airports and military installations and visits to aviation-related museums.

“We teach a lot more than aviation,”

said Mr. Allen. “The kids spend a lot of time with us day-to-day, and we try to instill in them the values of integrity and team building. It’s important to reach these kids while they’re at the right age because they’re the next generation.”

Students ages 13-18 can apply for the free camp and can get an application at their school.

SUMMERTIME FUN

Randolph Hunt and Saddle Club to host horse camp

By David DeKunder
Wingspread staff writer

This summer there will be one camp at Randolph where children will be allowed to "horse around."

The Randolph Hunt and Saddle Club will host a youth horse camp at its stables, located off Perimeter Road across from the Skeet Range, Aug. 6-10 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The camp is open to children ages 8 to 12 and is limited to six participants.

This is the first horse camp the Hunt and Saddle Club has offered, said club volunteer Lori Pfeil.

"We want to give kids the opportunity to be exposed to horses, learn about them and have fun, too," Ms. Pfeil said.

Horse trainer Maggie Rickard will instruct the children on the proper ways of riding, saddling, grooming, bathing and caring for a horse. The children will also participate in arts and crafts projects.

Ms. Rickard, who has 22 years of horse training experience, is a reliable trainer with impeccable credentials, Ms. Pfeil said.

"I take lessons from her at the Country Lanes Stables in Cibolo (where she is the manager)," Ms. Pfeil said. "She is a great instructor."

Ms. Rickard said she is looking forward to instructing the kids at the camp.

"I really enjoy working with kids who don't have an

opportunity to be around horses," she said. "I want to share my passion of horses with them."

Being around horses allows children to learn lessons about everyday life, Ms. Rickard said.

"A horse is like a mirror," she said. "If you look at yourself in a negative way, the horse is going to reflect that and not respond. It's when the children let that wall down that the horse is going to respond to them. It's amazing to see the difference in the kids' faces when a horse responds. Horses can teach children how they are being perceived by the rest of the world and that they need to be responsible for their own actions."

Ms. Rickard said horses are like people in some ways and that how children interact with the animals can help them in their relationships with other people.

"I will have three different horses at the camp," she said. "Each one has its own idiosyncrasies, just like people do. The children realize if they can communicate with a 1,000-pound animal then they can do anything in everyday life. It helps them to tackle other issues."

The six openings for the camp are available on a first come, first served basis. The registration fee is \$210 per child, which covers riding helmets and snacks for the children. On the last day of the camp, children will have a horse demonstration showcasing the skills they have learned during the week to their parents.

If more than six children show interest, a second



Sarah Pfeil, daughter of Lori Pfeil, hitches her horse, Aspen, in preparation for a daily grooming at the Randolph stables. (Photo by Rich McFadden)

camp could be held the following week, Ms. Pfeil said.

For more information about the horse camp, contact the Randolph Youth Center at 652-3298 or Ms. Pfeil at (325) 518-3007.

Interactive comment card allows customers to break the ‘ICE’

By Robert Goetz
Wingspread staff writer

The 12th Mission Support Group has "iced" the suggestion box, replacing the archaic vehicle for customer feedback with the decidedly more high-tech Interactive Customer Evaluation system.

Units within the 12th MSG are now employing the ICE system so that customers can express opinions about services and products through an interactive Web site.

"ICE is the difference between the speed of paper and the speed of the Internet," said Shelta Reese, Randolph ICE site administrator. "All you need is an Internet browser to access the ICE system from literally any computer, any time, any place."

She said ICE's primary purpose is to "improve customer service by giving management timely information about service quality and by improving speed, quality and quantity of feedback from customers."

Customers use the ICE system by logging on to <http://ice.disa.mil/>, then following the Air Force, CONUS and Randolph links to the appropriate service category and clicking on that link to find the service provider that interests them, Ms. Reese said. They can then access the customer comment card and send comments, suggestions, complaints or compliments to the service provider for action.

Service categories range from 12th Communications Squadron offices to the officer and enlisted clubs, fitness center, child and family services, fire department, visitor control center, recreation facilities and lodging.

When a comment card is submitted, an e-mail message is sent to a manager for each service provider, Ms. Reese said.


"Managers will use the feedback to continuously review, improve and provide the highest quality of service possible," she said.

For more information about ICE, contact Ms. Reese at 652-2052 or by e-mail at shelta.reese@randolph.af.mil.

Interactive Customer Evaluation

To comment on one of the below services, visit <http://ice.disa.mil/>.

- 12th Communications Squadron
- 12th Civil Engineering Division
- Fire Department • Visitor Control Center • Enlisted and Officers' Clubs
- Fitness Center • Family and Child Services • Library • Lodging
- Dining Facility • Information, Tickets and Travel office • Other 12th Services Division facilities



To advertise in the *Wingspread*,
call Prime Time Newspapers
at 210-675-4500
or 210-453-3300



Services BRIEFS

MISCELLANEOUS

• Free San Antonio Missions tickets

The San Antonio Missions baseball team is saluting military families with free tickets to its Sunday home game, which starts at 6 p.m. Tickets can be picked up at the information, tickets and travel office, Building 897. The Salute to Military Families campaign is sponsored by USAA.

AUTO SKILLS CENTER - 652-5142

• Automotive maintenance class

The auto skills center offers a two-session automotive maintenance class Aug. 7 and 14 from 6-8 p.m. Participants will learn how to change oil, rotate tires and complete a brake job. The cost is \$35, plus supplies. The deadline to sign up is July 31.

BOWLING CENTER - 652-6271

• July bowling special

Customers can bowl for \$1.50 per game, per person, Mondays in July from 6-11 p.m.

• Summer Strike Force

The bowling center's Summer Strike Force program runs through July 31. During the program, customers receive a punch on a card for every game they bowl or large Coca-Cola fountain drink they purchase.

For every 10 punches, customers receive a reward and are entered into a grand prize drawing for \$500 or \$250. The Summer Strike Force program is sponsored by QubicaAMF and Coca-Cola.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER ANNEX – 652-1140

• Part Day Enrichment program registration

Registration for the Part Day Enrichment program runs Aug. 7-14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Building 734. Registrants must bring a leave and earnings statement of employed parents, the child's current immunization record, emergency contact information and a \$30 deposit.

INFORMATION, TICKETS & TRAVEL - 652-5640

• July lawn package

Equipment checkout and ITT offer a lawn package special for July. For \$24 a day, customers can rent a lawn mower, rake, electric leaf blower, electric hedge trimmer and gas weed eater. Equipment is available at Building 897.

• Local attraction tickets

The information, tickets and travel office has tickets for SeaWorld of San Antonio, Six Flags, Schlitterbahn, Splashtown, IMAX theater, Natural Bridge Caverns, Natural Wildlife Park and Malibu Grand Prix. Call for ticket prices.

OFFICERS' CLUB - 652-4864

• Deck party

The Texas Tide Band performs Aug. 2 from 5-8 p.m. on the officers' club deck. An Italian buffet will be served. The cost is \$3 for club members and \$6 for nonmembers.

OUTDOOR RECREATION - 652-5268

• Skeet tournament

The skeet range hosts the Hotter-N-Hell skeet shoot July 28-29. National Skeet Association rules govern. Texas residents must have a current Texas Skeet Shoot Association card.

For more information, call 652-2064.

YOUTH CENTER - 652-3298

• FitFactor youth essay, photo contests

Randolph FitFactor participants can submit an original essay or photo that details or depicts the importance of an active lifestyle, making healthy choices and how FitFactor has played a role in this effort. All entries must be submitted to the youth center by Aug. 15.

For more information, call 652-3298.

• Babysitting class

The youth center hosts a babysitting class Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon. During the course, participants learn basic child care, first aid and CPR. The cost is \$20.



Randolph Pentathlon

Thursdays, Aug. 2-30

Events: Bowling, 8-Ball Pool, Foosball, Darts and Video Games. Teams of 4-6 people welcome, with \$20 entry fee. Entry forms available at the bowling center, enlisted and officers' clubs.



RANDOLPH RECREATION PARK AT CANYON LAKE - 800-280-3466

• New 31-foot houseboat

The Randolph Recreation Park has a new 31-foot houseboat available for rent. The cost is \$180 per day or \$300 for two consecutive days. Renters must be 21 years old and have completed the boater's safety course.

For more information, call 1-800-280-3488.

WOOD SKILLS CENTER - 652-7422

• Beginners' class

The wood skills center offers a two-session woodworking class Aug. 7 and 14 from 6-8 p.m. Participants will learn the basics of woodworking and be certified on the equipment. The cost is \$35, plus supplies. The deadline to sign up is July 31.

RANDOLPH CHAPEL – 652-6121

• Chapel schedule

For a complete chapel schedule, including Protestant, Catholic and other religious services, visit www.randolph.af.mil and click on the "chapel" link on the right side.

EDUCATION CENTER

• St. Phillip's College

Registration for the St. Philip's College fall session at Randolph is ongoing at the college's Randolph office, located in the education center, or online at www.accd.edu/spc.

The fall session begins Aug. 27 and includes eight- and 16-week courses.

Call 659-1096 for more information.

• St. Mary's University

Schedules for the St. Mary's University fall semester are available online at www.stmarytx.edu. Students already enrolled in one of the university's graduate programs may register for classes now.

Call 658-4852 or visit the Randolph office to register.

• ERAU

Registration for Embry-Riddle's fall term of graduate and undergraduate classes continues through July 27. Walk-in registration runs July 30 to Aug. 3. The fall term runs from Aug. 6 to Oct. 7.

Call the Randolph office at 659-0801 to schedule a registration appointment.

Students participating in the Oct. 26 commence-

ment ceremony should contact the office as soon as possible to complete a graduation application.

MISCELLANEOUS

• San Antonio Tour

The Airman and Family Readiness Flight offers a free tour of San Antonio July 27 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The tour includes a look at some of the city's historic sites, lunch and shopping. Child care is provided with home day-care providers for children under age 12 on a first come, first served basis.

Call 652-3060 to make reservations.

• Bundles for Baby seminar

Expectant couples with at least one member on active duty are invited to the next Bundles for Baby seminar Aug. 4 from 2-3:30 p.m. at the Airman and Family Readiness Flight, Building 693.

The Air Force Aid Society-sponsored event covers such topics as budgeting for a baby, dental and pediatric needs and the New Parent Support Program. Attendees receive a free "bundle" of baby supplies and a book for their baby's first year.

Call 652-5321 to sign up.

• Chess club

The Brooke Army Medical Center and Fort Sam Houston Chess Club meets Mondays from 5-7 p.m. in the BAMC Medical Mall. The club is open to all military members and their families. Experience is not necessary.

For more information, call Michael Oakes at 550-3153.

Community BRIEFS

MOVIES

Randolph Movie Theater - 652-3278

Adults - \$3.50 Children (11 yrs. and under) \$1.75

“Ocean’s 13”

George Clooney, Brad Pitt

Friday, 7 p.m.; Saturday, 6 p.m.

Rated PG-13, 122 min

The odds were against ruthless casino owner Willy Bank when he double-crossed Danny Ocean’s friend and mentor Reuben Tishkoff. Willy may have taken down one of the original Ocean’s 11, but he left the others standing. Danny Ocean tries to take Willy down on the night of what should be his greatest triumph – the grand opening of his new casino.

“Knocked Up”

Seth Rogen, Katherine Heigl

Sunday, 3 p.m.

Rated R, 129 min

Allison Scott is an up-and-coming entertainment journalist whose 24-year-old life is on the fast track. But it gets seriously derailed when a drunken one-nighter with slacker Ben Stone results in an unwanted pregnancy. Faced with the prospect of going it alone or getting to know the baby’s father, Allison decides to give the lovable doof a chance.

1. **Introduction**

100%

DATA SUITE

Continued from Page 1

Another breakthrough in the new evaluation system is the implementation of digital signatures, said Chief Heyward.

"Raters want to be sure everything is perfect before signing," she said. "Once signed, there is no going back. If there is a crucial change, the rater will have to start completely over with a new form."

Those members receiving referral performance reports will be notified face-to-face and given 10 days to rebut, the chief added.

Under the new process, a unit's commander's support staff will

"This will save the Air Force many man-hours in the long run," said Chief Heyward.

In regards to the new EPR (AF Forms 910 and 911), both the additional rater's and reviewer's areas were reduced to three lines and the form was reformatted for raters to provide two to four lines of text after each key performance area.

Two of the biggest changes officers will note in the OPR system is the change to only one OPR (AF Form 707) for second lieutenants through colonels and the reduction in size to only one page, with the exception of referrals.

"This is designed to reduce all the 'fluff' or unnecessary information often accompanied in the current OPR system and get to what really matters," said Capt. Gregory Beaulieu, MPF commander.

Perhaps the biggest change Airmen will find on the forms is the removal of the sliding scale and a standardized criterion for each performance assessment area using a "does not meet," "meets," "above average," and "clearly exceeds" criterion, Chief Heyward said. The immediate rater's comments are also aligned to the respective performance assessment areas on the front side.

"This is quite a change from the old performance feedback forms," said Chief Heyward. "But like the EPRs and OPRs, I think they are also easy to navigate and will catch on quickly."

For additional information on the new officer and enlisted evaluation processes, visit <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/hotweb/EvalForms.asp>.

Q: Why were the 707A and 707B (officer performance reports) combined into a single form?

Q: If the digital signature locks the data entered by

A: Keep in mind, the report cannot be signed prior to the close-out date of the report. If your unit pre-coordinates a draft prior to the close-out date, the evaluation cannot be signed. The unsigned draft can be coordinated and changed until it is in final format. Once the close-out date arrives and the entire rating chain agrees the evaluation is in final format, the evaluators can sign the form. Once the form is signed, changes can be made by cutting and pasting from the incorrect evaluation to a new form, making the changes and signing the new form.

A: By allowing the ratee to view the report prior to it becoming a matter of record, it will generate a feedback session allowing the ratee to understand the reasons for the rating they receive, and it will allow minor errors and omissions to be corrected before becoming a matter of record. This will reduce the number of evaluations that are appealed each year.

A: Not agreeing with the content of the evaluation is not valid justification for refusing to sign the evaluation. Remember, this is an acknowledgment that you received feedback and that you saw the evaluation. Your signature does not mean you agree with the evaluation. However, if you elect to not sign the report, your rater will select “Member refused to sign” from the drop down menu.

A: Officer promotion board timing varies from year to year based on a number of factors. With competitive categories within the same grade competing for promotion at different times throughout the year, it makes it difficult to set a transition cycle. There will be instances where some officers will have the “old” form while others will have the latest version. However, all officers will continue to have the same document to relay a promotion recommendation—AF Form 709, Promotion Recommendation Form (PRF). Although an officer may not have the “new” OPR on top, the Senior Rater may consider fitness program failure when preparing the PRF and fitness failure should be a factor on the “old” form. The OPR policy change will be highlighted to selection board members in the Secretary of the Air Force’s specific instructions (Memorandum of Instruction) to the board. As was the case during the last major change to the Officer Evaluation System, the records of all officers will have a notice on top of the last “old” form regarding the OES change.

A: A marking of “Does Not Meet” standards for fitness will require the report to be referred. Comments referencing ‘does not meet standards’ fitness category, specific fitness assessment scores and/or behavior may be included. Although fitness scores cannot be included in performance reports (except referrals), they may be considered in other recognition programs. Referring the report allows the ratee to provide comments for readers to consider.

A: No. Only those exempt from all four components of the fitness test are considered exempt. Those exempt from some components of the fitness test must still maintain standards based on their adjusted fitness score.

A: No. The overall performance assessment is still based on a 1-5 scale and there are no changes to EPR points for WAPS calculation.

More Q&As are available at
<http://askafpc.randolph.af.mil/hotweb/EvalForms.asp>.



Left: Frank Gonzalez (left) and Rocky Deluna, both of the 12th Maintenance Division survival equipment shop, fabricate an oil cart cover. (Photos by Rich McFadden)
Below: A survival equipment shop technician modifies a parachute harness.



Lifesavers

Survival equipment shop keeps base aviators safe in skies



Gene Lott, of the 12th Maintenance Division survival equipment shop, packs one of the more than 300 parachutes the shop maintains.

The six-person team of the 12th Maintenance Division's survival equipment shop, located in Hangar 6, is a vital part of the Randolph flying training mission. The team maintains more than 300 parachutes used by base pilots and combat systems officers, averaging 20 parachute repacks and repairs each week. The group also inspects and repacks two sets of T-38 drogue chutes a month in addition to 10-12 G-suit-modifications and repairs a week.

Shop members also dedicate many hours each week repairing and manufacturing other items used by the aircraft maintenance department including oil cart covers, jack stand covers, navigator bags and tool pouches. In addition, team members inspect, repair and repack life rafts, life preservers and anti-exposure suits.



Dave Amaya, of the 12th Maintenance Division survival equipment shop, modifies a parachute harness.



Marcy Scheider, of the 12th Maintenance Division survival equipment shop, checks in parachutes for routine maintenance.

Eight-run third powers 563 FTS past Fire Department

Home runs by Michaelson, Benningfield crucial to 18-12 intramural softball win

By David DeKunder
Wingspread staff writer

Set off by an eight-run third inning, the 563rd Flying Training Squadron Black Aces held on to defeat the Randolph Fire Department, 18-12, Monday in intramural softball action at Rambler Field.

Brian Benningfield and Clint Michaelson hit back-to-back home runs to spark the 563rd FTS in the third inning, enabling the Black Aces to break open the close, one-run game.

With two runners on base, Benningfield hit a three-run shot to put the squadron up 13-9. Michaelson, the training squadron's coach, followed with a solo home run. A bases-loaded two-run double by Lonnie Lingafelter continued the 563rd FTS onslaught in the third. Phil Williams drove in the final two squadron runs with a single, putting the 563rd FTS up 18-9.

The Firefighters (4-1), who suffered their first loss of the season, scored three runs in the bottom of the fifth inning, but the rally ended when Michael Gongora flew out to end the game.

After struggling to start the season, the 563rd FTS improved to 2-2 and seems to be getting into a winning groove, Michaelson said.

"We're picking it up and beginning to feel comfortable at the plate," the coach said. "We've been able to manufacture more runs."

Michaelson, Benningfield, Lingafelter and Eric Patchen each had three RBIs for the squadron.

Todd Isaac hit two home runs to lead the Firefighters with six RBIs. Isaac's first homer, a three-run shot in the first inning, gave the Fire Department an early 3-0 lead. Isaac connected on another three-run blast in the second inning to put the Firefighters up 9-4.

The squadron rallied from their early deficits by scoring four runs in the bottom of the first and six runs in the bottom of the second. Patchen helped the 563rd



Firefighter Sean Barrett dives to tag out 563rd Flying Training Squadron's Chris Summers during an intramural softball game Monday. The 563rd FTS defeated the Fire Department 18-12. (Photo by Melissa Peterson)

FTS' cause with a two-run double in the first. In the second, Michaelson singled in two runs and Lingafelter's double up the middle scored two more runs, helping the Black Aces regain the lead it would never relinquish.

The 563rd FTS out-hit the Firefighters 17-10 and scored two runs on walks. The Fire Department issued 11 walks, five of which loaded the bases for the Black Aces.

Firefighters coach Pete Barela said the Fire Department did not have some of their best players dressed up because they were on duty, but he is hoping they can bounce back against the 562nd FTS Students, whom they played last Wednesday and whom they will play again this Wednesday at 8 p.m. at Rambler Field.

The 563rd FTS will play the 12th Security Forces Squadron Monday at 6 p.m. at Yankee Field.

GLORY DAYS USAFE Football League reunion coming to Randolph

By Robert Goetz
Wingspread staff writer

For nearly 50 years after World War II, on air bases throughout Western Europe, teams like the Rhein Main Rockets, Bitburg Barons and Upper Heyford Sky Kings gave military members and civilians starved for American football something to cheer about on autumn weekends.

The Rockets, Barons and Sky Kings were among the teams that competed in the U.S. Air Forces in Europe Football League that included the Continental Sports Conference, which served bases in West Germany, Belgium and Spain; the United Kingdom Sports Conference in England; and the Mediterranean Sports Conference for bases in Greece, Turkey and Italy.

Base closures and force reductions in the early 1990s brought the league to an end in 1993, but the camaraderie fostered by that competition endures. Players, officials, coaches, referees and their families reunited for the first time last year at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., and they'll meet again this year for a gathering Aug. 24-26 at Randolph.

"It was unbelievable to go back and see some of those guys," Converse resident Dwayne Harp said about the first reunion at Andrews.

A former CSC Player of the Year, Harp and his wife, Donna, are coordinating this year's reunion, which will feature activities such as a flag football game between former CSC and UKC players, a barbecue and banquet.



Dwayne Harp, #21 of the Bitburg Barons, evades defensive players and runs toward the end zone during a U.S. Air Forces in Europe Football League game. (Courtesy photo)

Harp, who played in the USAFE Football League as a running back and wide receiver from 1982-1990, said the football games, which often drew as many as 15,000 spectators to base fields, improved morale and cultivated friendly competition among the air bases.

"After years of playing, a lot of rivalries developed," he said.

One of those rivalries was between his air base, Bitburg, and nearby Spangdahlem.

"It could be friendly, but it was also very competitive," he said.

Harp marveled at the "college atmosphere" of the games.

"It was a big thing," he said. "Stars & Stripes covered our games like they were the big game, like it was OU and UT."

Harp said the league featured quality players, like Chad Hennings, an Air Force Academy graduate who later earned Super Bowl rings with the Dallas Cowboys, and others who played collegiate football in the United States.

"There were a lot of top-notch guys," he said. "One guy had two Rose Bowl rings."

The games also sparked friendships with players from other bases and with Soldiers from Army installations who played on the air base teams, he said.

Players also reached out to townspeople more used to watching another brand of football better known in the States as soccer.

"That's how people in the communities got their first taste of American football," Harp said. "We would invite people from the town, and we formed friendships that way."

An added benefit, he said, were the "unbelievable" travel opportunities for players, visiting bases in Germany, England and the Mediterranean.

The league took flight in Germany in 1946 under the umbrella of the United States Army in Europe to provide entertainment to military personnel and civilians living in Europe.

Air base teams competed in the league, but started their own conferences in 1951. They competed for conference championships and played in their own version of the Super Bowl, which pitted the CSC titlist against the UKC champion. Paralleling the success of NFL titans Green Bay, Dallas and Pittsburgh across the pond were Rhein Main, 8-2 in championship games, and Bitburg and Wiesbaden, with six titles each. Upper Heyford won five championships for the United Kingdom Sports Conference.

Harp said he's looking forward to the reunion, and is expecting "double the amount" of participation from last year.

"We have 55 commitments so far," he said. "We had 30 guys last year."

For more information on the reunion, call Mr. Harp at 566-4696 or e-mail dwayneharp@sbcglobal.net.

Sports BRIEFS

Randolph 10-mile run challenge

The Rambler Fitness Center hosts a 10-mile run Saturday at 8 a.m. at Eberle Park. The event is sponsored in part by Gatorade, Aquafina and Propel.
Call 652-2955 for more information.

Youth 10-mile bike challenge

The Rambler Fitness center hosts a youth 10-mile bike challenge July 28 at 8 a.m. at Eberle Park. All participants receive a free T-shirt and can earn FitFactor program points.
Call 652-2955 for more information.

Tour de France cycling class

The fitness center offers a "Tour de France" cycling class Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays through July 29.

Water aerobics

The center pool offers water aerobics classes Mondays and Wednesdays from 10-11 a.m. The cost is \$3.
For more information, call 652-5316.

Aerobic classes

The Rambler Fitness Center offers a variety of aerobics classes during the week including step, cycling, Pilates, kick boxing, boot camp, body toning, senior strength training and yoga.
For details, call 652-2955.

Tee times

Golfers should sign up for weekday tee times at the Randolph Oaks Golf Course at least two days in advance.
To sign up, e-mail tee.time@randolph.af.mil.

Youth center activities registration

Parents can register their children for football, pep squad and volleyball now through July 31 at the youth center. All participants must have a current sports physical and youth center membership or have paid an activity fee.
For details, call the youth center at 652-3298.

Rodeo members wanted

The Professional Armed Forces Rodeo Association is seeking new members for the 2007 season. The association, the only rodeo organization geared specifically to the military, is open to anyone who is or has been on active duty or part of Reserve or Guard components and still retains a DD Form 214 with a general discharge or better.
For more information, visit www.pafra2000.com or call Jeff Scott at 830-298-4211 or 830-703-0320.

Do not drink and drive. If you do drink...

Be Smart

0 To avoid alcohol-related incidents...

1 limit yourself to one drink an hour...

3 and no more than three drinks max!



Air Force News Agency